

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166042

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: PINR, UR, SE

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SEYCHELLES

REF: VICTORIA'S 144 AND 203

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON ALEKSANDR KAPITONOVICH
STARTSEV SUPPLEMENTS DATA PROVIDED REFTELS.

2. ALEKSANDR STARTSEV (PRONOUNCED START-SEF, WITH STRESS
ON FIRST SYLLABLE) WAS APPOINTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO
SEYCHELLES ON APRIL 1, 1977. A CAREER DIPLOMAT, HE
SPECIALIZED IN CANADIAN AND US AFFAIRS DURING 1943-61 AND
HAS FOCUSED ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS SINCE THEN. HIS LAST
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ASSIGNMENT ABROAD WAS AS AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA (1968-70).

3. STARTSEV'S TOUR IN GUINEA DID NOT END SMOOTHLY. IN
SUMMER OF 1969 A SOVIET EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WAS ARRESTED FOR
HAVING BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CONSPIRATORS PLOTTING ASSAS-
SINATION OF GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE. GUINEAN
OFFICIALS FLEW TO MOSCOW DEMANDING THE RECALL OF STARTSEV,

ACCUSING HIM OF KNOWING ABOUT PLOT AND NOT REPORTING IT TO

THEM. STARTSEV DEPARTED GUINEA IN OCTOBER 1969 AND WAS RELIEVED AS AMBASSADOR THE FOLLOWING FEBRUARY. HE WORKED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN MOSCOW FROM 1970 UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO SEYCHELLES.

4. STARTSEV WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1919 IN VLADIMIR OBLAST, RSFSR. HIS FATHER EVENTUALLY BECAME CHAIRMAN OF A KOLKHOZ (COLLECTIVE FARM). IN 1942 STARTSEV GRADUATED FROM IVANOVO PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE. HE JOINED FOREIGN MINISTRY THE FOLLOWING YEAR. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO SOVIET CONSULATE IN HALIFAX, CANADA, DURING 1944-47, AND THEN TO SOVIET UN MISSION IN NEW YORK AS SECOND SECRETARY FOR SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS FROM 1949 TO 1952. DURING 1955-58 STARTSEV WAS FIRST SECRETARY AT SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IN 1958 HE RETURNED TO MOSCOW TO WORK FOR 3 YEARS IN EXCHANGES SECTION OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. DURING THIS PERIOD HE SERVED ON SOVIET DELEGATIONS TO NEGOTIATIONS OF US-USSR CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT (1959) AND DIRECT AIR TRAFFIC AGREEMENT (1961).

5. IN 1961 STARTSEV SWITCHED TO AFRICAN AFFAIRS. HE WAS EMBASSY COUNSELOR IN SUDAN DURING 1961-62 AND COUNSELOR IN MINISTRY'S SECOND AFRICAN COUNTRIES DEPARTMENT DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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1962-67. IN 1967-68, BEFORE BEING APPOINTED AMBASSADOR, HE WAS MINISTER COUNSELOR OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN GUINEA.

6. STARTSEV IS WELL INFORMED ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SEEMS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE WEST, AND IN THE PAST HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND OPEN TO US DIPLOMATS. HE AND HIS WIFE, MARIYA DMITRIYEVNA, HAVE THREE SONS: SERGEY, BORN IN 1945; YEVGENIY, BORN IN 1946; AND ARKADIY, BORN ABOUT 1955. STARTSEV SPEAKS FRENCH. HIS WIFE SPEAKS ENGLISH. VANCE

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